

REMARKS

I. INTRODUCTION

Claims 1, 2 and 13 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Thus, claims 1-24 are pending in the present application. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable.

II. THE 35 U.S.C. § 112 REJECTIONS SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN

Claims 10 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In the Amendment filed 8/22/05, claim 18 and paragraph [0024] of the specification were amended to overcome these rejections. Specifically, paragraph [0024] was amended to include the "recipient identifier" recited in claim 10 and claim 18 was amended to more clearly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Although the rejection of claims 10 and 19 have been maintained in the final Office Action, the Examiner has not elaborated on the rejection. Applicant respectfully maintains that the previous amendment to claim 10 is sufficient to overcome the rejection thereof, and also wishes to point out paragraph [0029] of the specification, which states that "The system 1 also may allow multiple accounts for each Recipient 20." Paragraph [0029] also states that the sender may specify which recipient or group of recipients may review information about the incoming mail. Thus, there is sufficient support for the recitation of claim 19. In addition, the specification is consistent with the Examiner's interpretation of claim 19 as stated in the final Office Action. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 10 and 19 be withdrawn.

III. THE 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) REJECTIONS SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN

Claims 1-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,394,354 to Wilz, Sr. et al. (hereinafter "Wilz").

Wilz discloses an Internet-based system and method for routing, tracking, and delivering packages. (*See Wilz*, Abstract). Packages are provided with bar codes containing

URLs and zip code information, which may be scanned by a bar code reader to effect routing and tracking of the packages. (*See id.*). Specifically, each package is logged into a database management system, located on a server, by a package login procedure. (*See Wilz*, Col. 26, ll. 16-20). In this procedure, the server is accessed by reading a predesignated URL-encoded bar code symbol specifying its address on the Internet, package related information is entered via the internet, a custom bar code symbol label encoded with a corresponding URL is created and printed, and the label is applied to the package. (*See Wilz*, Col. 26, ll. 16-31). The database management system may contain a number of fields pertaining to the package, including a package identification number (PIN), a shipper identification number, destination information, delivery instructions, etc. (*See Wilz*, Col. 26, l. 54 - Col. 27, l. 22). As each package is transported, its bar code is scanned at package routing subsystems through which it moves, and location information of the package is updated with each scan. (*See Wilz*, Col. 29, ll. 27-51). Package related information may be viewed by reading the corresponding URL-encoded bar code symbols into an Internet browser program using a bar code scanner. (*See Wilz*, Col. 24, ll. 13-17).

Claim 1 of the present invention recites a method for providing a user with a personalized shipment system which includes the steps of "*determining whether the destination data is in a machine language*" and "*translating, when the destination data is not in a machine language, the destination data into machine language destination data*" and "*providing the tracking data regarding shipment progress of the item in response to a request, wherein the tracking data is provided using only the user identifier and the destination data included in the request.*"

The Examiner contends that the step of creating and printing a custom bar code symbol label in the login procedure of Wilz is equivalent to "*determining whether the destination data is in a machine language*" and "*translating, when the destination data is not in a machine language, the destination data into machine language.*" (*See 10/14/05 Office Action*, page 3, ¶ 6). Specifically, the Examiner states that creating a label in machine language inherently includes making a determination whether it is in a computer language. (*See id.*). The Examiner has also stated that when a shipper enters in package-related information the system makes a determination that the human language is not machine language. (*See 10/14/05 Office Action*,

page 11, ¶ 32). However, when the package-related information is entered, the human language is translated directly into machine language. For example, if the shipper enters the information using a keyboard, the keyboard signals are translated directly into a machine language (e.g., ASCII code). The machine language may then be further translated into another machine language (e.g., a bar code). No determination is made that the human language is not in machine language because the system implicitly assumes that the information will have been translated into machine language by the time it is received by the system. Furthermore, claim 1 specifically states that the recipient data (and therefore, the destination data) is located on the package. As described in the specification of the present application, the package is read by a sorting machine, which determines whether the recipient data is in a human language or not. (*See Specification*, ¶ [0016]). Wilz's system requires that the information be entered manually. Therefore, the destination data recited by claim 1 and the package-related information of Wilz are not analogous. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Wilz neither discloses nor suggests "*determining whether the destination data is in a machine language*" and "*translating, when the destination data is not in a machine language, the destination data into machine language destination data,*" as recited in claim 1.

Furthermore, Wilz fails to teach using only a user identifier and/or the destination data to track the package. In order to track the package, the user must obtain the URL by scanning the bar code. There is absolutely no mention or suggestion that the shipper identification number and/or the destination information may be used to track the package. Wilz states that the package is assigned a unique HTML-encoded storage location on a web page, the URL of which is linked to the PIN. (*See Wilz*, Col. 29, ll. 5-10). Wilz is silent as to how the storage location and the PIN are assigned, and merely indicates that they are unique. Therefore, like the conventional mailing services described by the specification of the present application, Wilz's system relies on randomly assigned tracking numbers rather than a specific tracking number derived from the user identifier and the destination data as taught by the present invention. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Wilz neither discloses nor suggests "*providing the tracking data regarding shipment progress of the item in response to a request, wherein the tracking data is provided using only the user identifier and the destination data included in the*

request," as recited in claim 1.

In light of the above distinctions, it is respectfully submitted that Wilz does not anticipate claim 1 of the present application, and thus the rejection of this claim should be withdrawn. Because claims 2-12 depend from and therefore include all the limitations of claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also allowable.

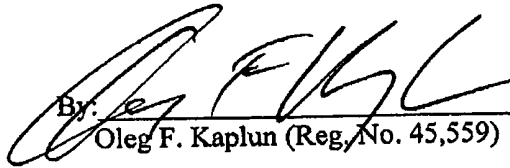
Claim 13 recites limitations which are similar to those recited in claim 1. Specifically, claim 13 recites "a first shipment processing arrangement... *determining whether the destination data is in a machine language and, when the destination data is not in a machine language, the first shipment processing arrangement translates the destination data into the machine language destination data,*" and "tracking data... provided by the second computing arrangement *in response to a request, wherein the tracking data is provided using only the user identifier and the destination data included in the request.*" Thus, for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 13 should be withdrawn. Because claims 14-24 depend from and therefore include all the limitations of claim 13, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also allowable.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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